इसी स्टेशन पर आयेगी लोक सभा से, तब आप पकड़ लीजियेगा । . . . . (व्यवधान)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Madam, it is a question of seven hundred employees in his area...(*Interruptions*)... The Government earlier had taken a decision to reinstate them...(*Interruptions*)... What happened to it...(*Interruptions*)... The Minister owes an explanation to Parliament and the nation...(*Interruptions*).. Why did they not implement the decision taken by the previous Government about these employees who have been victimised? ... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ASHIS SEN: Madam, I did not want to interrupt when it was being passed. But I would like to now what his response is...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, if you want to reply, you can do so.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : हालांकि गाड़ी सीटी दे चुकी है, लेकिन माननीय सदस्य के सम्मान में इसे और थोड़ी देर के लिये जंजीर खींचकर रोका जा सकता है ।

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : जुर्माना मत करिएगा ।

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : मैंने लोक सभा में एलान किया है और यहां भी कहना चाहता हूं कि पिछले दिनों जब पिछली सरकार थी, उस समय अंतिम दिनों में ही यह निर्णय हुआ था जबकि जार्ज फर्नांडीज साहब रेल मंत्री थे कि जो रेलकर्मी बर्खास्त किए गए हैं, उनको फिर से बहाल किया जाएगा । वह बात कैबिनेट मीटिंग में गयी और वहां से भी यह पास हुई । लेकिन उस बीच में वह सरकार अल्पमत में आ गयी थी और राष्ट्रपति महोदय ने उस निर्णय को निरस्त करने का आदेश दिया और श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह ने उस समय उसको निरस्त भी कर दिया था । अब हमने पिछले दिनों ही सदस्यों को आश्वासन दिया था कि रेलवे के अंतरिम बजट पर जब जवाब देंगे तो रेलकर्मियों के बारे में कुछ कहेंगे । तो उस आश्वासन के मुताबिक हमने वहां घोषणा की थी और यहां भी घोषणा कर रहे हैं कि जो रेलकर्मी पिछले दिनों के आंदोलन में, जिस आंदोलन में हम लोग भी हिस्सेदार थे, उनसे हमारी हमदर्दी भी है, उनको वापिस लेने का निर्णय हमारा मंत्रालय करता है, लेकिन यह निर्णय हम कैबिनेट को भेजेंगे और उसमें कौनसी दिक्कत पड़ेगी इसके बारे में हम अभी नहीं कह सकते । . . . (व्यवधान) . . .

उपसभापति : जिन लोगों की नौकरी चली गयी, उनके बारे में बात हो रही थी, मंत्री जी ने बता दिया । and it is better that we consider it. It does not matter if the Bill is passed. It is O.K. Now, let us take up the legislative business, the Appropriation (Vote-on-Account) Bill, 1991.

THE APPROPRIATION (VOTE-ON-ACCOUNT) BILL, 1991

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): Madam, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1991-92, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The question was proposed.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Karnataka): Madam, this is an Interim Budget.

Madam, this is a Vote-on-Account Bill which is being taken up now. Normally, as you know, in the Interim Budget, vital matters, policy matters, are not discussed. But the Finance Minister has, for the first time, brought in vital policy matters in this Interim Budget and I fail to understand why he has done that. The regular

[Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy]

Budget would be there in any case when we can discuss any policy matter. But, in this Interim Budget, he has brought in many important issues like privatization of the public sector, that is, disinvestment of capital in the public sector. He has also referred to cuts in the subsidies on food and fertilizer. These are all policy matters and we have strong reservations on all these matters. Why he did not avoid all these things in the Interim Budget, I fail to understand.

I think the honourable Members would agree with me that it would have been better if he had avoided any reference to these vital matters. So, at this juncture, I do not want to say anything except that we have got very strong reservations on all these issues and these issues can be taken up only later and we do not want any reference to these issues in the Interim Budget.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA (Bihar): They should be withdrawn.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Madam, in the Appropriation Bill which is now being discussed there are certain measures mentioned by my colleague. But I would like to say, through you, to the Government and my colleagues here that the country is passing through a great economic crisis. Unless the expenditure is pruned on any account unless belts are tightened in whatever way—I do not mean that the public sector should be privatised, etc.; I do not mean that. But what I mean is that this country will rise and the people will rise to see that the begging bowl which we are moving is not moved and the country's economy is strengthened by any means whatsoever.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Dipen Ghosh. (*Interruptions*) I will allow all those who want to speak. In whatever hurry we might, I will allow those who have anything to say.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): I wholly share the feelings that have been expressed by my colleague, Mr. Gurupadaswamy. While presenting this Vote-on-Account for four months—this Government is still a Government technically but there will not be that Government in another two or three months—and the policy which they have declared about the disinvestment in certain units in the public sector, about the cut in subsidy on food and fertilizers and about certain other things, I do not know whether it is at all ethical or ethically proper for a Government which is already out to establish a policy which will affect the people of our country and the economy of our country. My learned colleague, Mr. Kulkarni, has stated that the country is passing through a severe crisis, and for that matter expenditure has to be reduced Yes. But on what account? On the subsidy on food?—what does it mean? On the subsidy on fertilizers?—what does it mean? Because of cut in subsidy on food the public distribution system is going to be affected. That has already started being affected. And the largest section of the population, the poor people, the peasants and the farmers, are going to be affected. So naturally...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: You please go in the Library and see the research organization notes—the NCER and Universities which have pointed out that the subsidy is not going to affect... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: For the last 8 to 10 years it was the International Monetary Fund that has been insisting on cut in subsidies on food and fertilizers, and this Government, which is out now, in order to fulfil the IMF conditionality, has proposed this cut. Since we have agreed to pass this Vote-on-Account, only the expenditure side, in order to help the Government and help the country to pass over the impasse which has been created at the moment because of the constitutional crisis—with that reservation we are taking part in passing this Vote-on-Account.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, one clarificaion. It was decided that all these things will be passed without anybody speaking on these. But you are allowing Members to speak. I

want to say that if some parties speak and others do not speak, we will go by default. So either you do not allow this discussion or a discussion should be allowed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. I will give my opinion. It was the leaders of various parties who decided not to speak. It is not the decision of the Chair that nobody should speak. If now some Members want to speak, I would never curtail their right to speak in this House. If anybody wants to speak, I have no objection.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): Let it be party-wise.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If Mr. Chavan wants to speak, I cannot tell him not to speak. It would not be correct on my part to say to anybody not to speak. So, Mr. Chavan, if you want to say anything, you can speak.

AN HON. MEMBER: I also want to speak.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No problem. The Leaders who spoke have themselves decided not to speak. If they want to change their decision, I cannot object.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Madam, this is the Interim Budget presented by the Government. There are a large number of technical issues which can be raised. But certainly we are not interested in creating any constitutional deadlock. But, at the same time, let the Government also be aware of the fact that there are certain conventions which the Government and specially the Caretaker Government will have to bear in mind. And that is, when it is a Vote on Account, it is normally the committed expenditure which should be asked for, and no fresh policy decisions should be reflected in the Interim Budget which is presented to the House. That is a normal practice which they should have observed. But, somehow we find that there are three or four proposals here. I would not like to dilate or go into the detalis as to whether they should be supported or they should not be supported. It is totally an irrelevant matter because we are not interested in seeing that the Bill does not go through. We are interested in seeing that the things should be expedited and this Bill should be passed. But let not an unhealthy precedent be formed that hereafter when you ask for Vote on Account, you also go in for policy decisions to be taken since we do not have discussions in the House. You just annecunced the policy decisions unilaterally. This sort of a thing should not happen. And that is why I thought that I should bring on record that this is not a healthy practice which the Govrnement should have avoided. However, keeping the larger interest of the country in view, we do not insist on this.

श्री चतरानन मिश्र (बिहार) : उपसभापति महोदय, जो बातें अभी विरोधी दल के नेता ने और माननीय सदस्य चव्हाण साहब ने जो बात कही, वह बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण बात है, हम लोग एक असाधारण स्थिति में हैं, संवैधानिक संकट को दूर करने के कारण ही हम अपनी आवाज को यहां बंद रख रहे हैं यह हमारा संवैधानिक अधिकार है कि हम यहां बोलें, लेकिन कोई संकट उत्पन्न न हो इसलिए हमने खुद उपने ऊपर एक बंदिश लगाई है तो जब हम इतनी बंदिश लगा रहे हैं तो मंत्री महोदय उठकर इतना तो कह सकते हैं कि जो नीतिगत पालिसी प्राइवेटाइजेशन की है या अभी जो बात आई सबसिडी की, तो इसमें यह भी नहीं लिखा है कि किसका सबसिडी काटा जायेगा, अगर बड़े-बड़े होटलों का काटा जाए, बड़े-बड़े लोगों का काटा जाए तो हम लोग समझ सकते हैं, लेकिन ये सारी बातें, कुलकर्णी जी ने देखा होगा, उसमें स्पष्ट है चूंकि इलेक्शन में भी जाना है यह कह करके जाएं विद ग्रेस कि हम यह वापिस लेते हैं तो पब्लिक भी बूझेगी कि अक्लमंद आदमी कम से कम जाने के वक्त भी अक्लमंद था और नहीं तो फिर यहां आना भी कठिन हो जाएगा तो यह आपके ही हक में है कि आप कह जाइए इस बात को, नहीं तो लोग नहीं आने देंगे इतना ही हमें कहना था कि इसे वापिस ले लें ताकि यहां व्यर्थ की बहस न हो ।

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, I do not want to make a speech. I share the reservations expressed by my colleagues, Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy and Shri Dipen Ghosh in this matter.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, as it has already been pointed out, there are certain policy decisions which have been invoked in this Interim Budget. As it has been said, disinvestment of funds is one policy decision and subsidy is another policy decision. Both these are very important policy decisions that have been made, and that too very controversial policy decisions. I am told that such policy decisions—I do not know if it is in vogue, as I understand, it is policy decision especially on disinvestment on public sector which has been stated in the Press—will create more inflation because it is neither privatisation nor it is keeping up public sector. But it appears to be a hybrid variety which is neither here nor there and ultimately, this kind of disinvestment will create more inflation in this country. Madam, much has been said from both sides on this issue because even in Communist countries, as I understand, some privatisation has been done in their own way. Some of the public sectors in USSR and other countries have also been taken away. In China also they have taken away. That is what I understand. It is a matter that the whole country has to go into because it is a matter on which our planning is based and everything cannot be taken away like that. One more thing I would like to stress on the Government is, Madam, we are hearing that because of the political situation in the country papers are not moving anywhere in the Government offices. No officer is willing to take action on any paper or any decision because they do not know what is happening to the Government. We as Members of Parliament ourselves do not know what is going to happen tomorrow. That is the situation. You know, Madam, that in the Central Hall many of the Members of Parliament are sitting and discussing it. Most probably some of the leaders do not understand what is happening. So, naturally officers are not able to take decisions. I will plead with the Government or the interim Government that they should see that papers and decisions have to move very fast because it has been already said by the leaders here that the economic condition of the country is in a very bad state and even papers and decisions are not moved from the Secretariat down to the officers. We are also going to face elections in 3-4 months and no decision is taken because election is forthcoming. I would conclude by saying, Madam, that the Government should see to it. The inflation is already eating into the vitals of our economy. We have already reached a double-digit inflation. Whichever Government is there, even if it is Interim Government, I will strongly plead on behalf of the people of this country and on behalf of the poor people of this country that they should see to it that inflation does not eat into the vitals of the economy.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Will you allow me?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is it necessary that after AIADMK, the DMK Member should speak? There can be a gap also. Yes, Dr. J. K. Jain.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN (Madhya Pradesh): Madam, in the name of Vote-on-Account in fact we are going to pass Interim Budget. Since, opinion has been expressed on some of the policy issues, I would like to put on record our view-point as well on the issue of disinvestment. I think the Government has not gone the way it should have gone. The disinvestment they have set up to 20 per cent. We should go up to 49 per cent safely. Madam, my opinion is that the way Government has tried it should go up to 49 per

cent. That is number one. Secondly, disinvestment from public sector undertakings to the public sector banks and financial institutions is not going to provide the relief. It should have been given to the public and then achieving the public ownership of the public sector enterprises. Madam, on the issue of subsidy, I want that we should further strengthen our support to the food and fertilizer because subsidy meant for the poor sections, the farmers, should not be withdrawn. I would also like to say a word here on the export subsidy. We need exports and ....(*interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is his viewpoint; let him put it.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: On the issue of exports, considering the country's balance of payment position and our efforts to encourage exports, the Government should not talk of withdrawing subsidy on exports. So, while we are concerned about subsidy on exports, subsidy on fertilizers and food, we are also concerned that there should not be any cut in subsidy on exports.

PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR (Bihar): I have four submissions to make. The fact of the matter is that the Government has not been voted out, as Mr. Dipen Ghosh was trying to make out ....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I said the Government is.....(*Interruptions*).... on the way out....(*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are not discussing Government; we are discussing the Budget.

PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR: There is a Government and the Congress Party has not withdrawn support ....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. M. JACOB (Kerala): To put the record straight, there is a Government; the Prime Minister had resigned and his resignation was accepted; but the Congress Party had not withdrawn its support to it.

PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR: Yesterday, *The Times of India* carried an interview from four national leaders, and the leader of the Congress party ....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: We are not discussing that ....(*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are discussing the budget. Please confine yourself to monetry matters.

PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR: I am talking about that only. On the two issues which the leader of the opposition had raised, the leader of the Congress Party had said that the question of investment and the question of subsidy need to be examined. That shows clearly that that proposition is not a part of the support of the Congress Party so far as this Government is concerned ....(*Interruptions*). Let me complete. This country is grateful to the farmers that they have given us enough foodgrains in terms of variety and quantity so that we do not have to go with a begging bowl to the rest of the world for import of food. We are grateful to them and we would like to remain grateful to them. We are not saying what the situation of subsidy is. All we say is that we need to strengthen the process of production of food in this country. If we had a discussion on it, we would have liked to hear as to what kind of retargetting is proposed.

So far as public sector is concerned, Congress Party is very much for the public sector. We want to have strong public sector. We want a very effective public sector. We want a surplus-generating public sector ....(*Interruptions*).

The last point that I would like to make is, this county would like to see a Government which can promote the volume of savings. And to the extent the Bharat Bachat Bank has been created, I am not sure whether extra overhead costs required are necessary. But whichever Government comes to power, we would welcome whatever it

[Prof. Chandresh P. Thakur]

does to promote the volume of savings. This is our position so far as we are concerned, and our leader made it clear in yesterday's interview.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Das Gupta, you want to speak. I have absolutely no objection to a full-fledged debate if the Members want; but as it was decided...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): But not from each party.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If the Members so agree that we may have a discussion, I have absolutely no objection.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If everybody speaks at the same time, how can I understand?

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Madam, we are not against any discussion. The only thing is that it was agreed in the morning that there would not be any discussion. But, our party is prepared for a discussion. If there is no time now, let us adjourn it till tomorrow.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jacob, now that I have permitted two Members from the Congress (I) to speak, I think I cannot deprive the Members from other parties to speak. Members from DMK have to speak. I cannot say that I will allow the Members from CPI (M) and Janata Dal to speak, and not the Members from DMK. Now, I am allowing Shri Gopalsamy to speak. I shall not object to anybody speaking. But I request you to make only points and not a speech.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Madam, Deputy Chairman, we all came here with an eagerness and anxiety to attend the Budget Session. Our hon. friend, Shri S. B. Chavan was telling that policy decisions should not be made when we agreed to go in for the vote-on-account. But, Shri Yashwant Sinha tried very hard, day and night, to prepare the Budget. But it is the Congress Party which dictated that a full-fledged Budget should not be presented ....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN (Tamil Nadu): This is not the way he should speak. Let him talk about his party. Why should he unnecessarily indulge .....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: They have played a nefarious game in which they are ultimately caught.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please be brief.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: The Prime Minister while addressing on the TV the other day, himself said that because of the irresponsible behaviour ....(*Interruptions*). It is not my word. I am only quoting Shri Chandra Shekhar who said that it is because of the irresponsible behaviour of certain people of the Congress party that this type of a mess has been created ....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Madam, the hon. Member wants to create a mess now. He does not want the pasing of the Bills ....(*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order. Now, the turn of DMK and AIADMK is over. Prof. Bhattacharjee please be brief.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE (West Bengal): Madam, I will be very brief. The question before both the Houses of Parliament is avoiding any Constitutional crisis. Now, this proposal of disinvestment in public sector or reducing the subsidy on food and fertiliser are in no way connected with the Constitutional crisis, and were proposed at a time when the present situation did not arise. I would, therefore, request the Finance Minister to confine himself to vote-on-account and avoid this superfluous point for the present. It may be a long-term debate, no

doubt. Let them withdraw it. I am sure that even the Lok Sabha Members would be glad to confirm it if Rajya Sabha does it in its wisdom.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Ram Awadeshji. He is the last person whom I am allowing to speak. I am not permitting anyone else.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह (बिहार) : उपसभापति महोदया, भारत में संसदीय इतिहास में शायद 9 वीं लोक सभा की जिन्दगी जितनी छोटी है उतनी छोटी जिन्दगी किसी लोकसभा की न हो यह मेरी कामना है । क्योंकि सरकार लोक सभा के गर्भ से पैदा होती है इस लिए मुझे लोकसभा की भी चिंता है और मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि भारत की जितनी प्रतिक्रियावादी ताकतें थीं, जितनी कट्टरपंथी ताकतें थीं उन्होंने जानबूझ कर राष्ट्रीय मोर्चा सरकार के गठन के समय से ही इस तरह से षड्यंत्र किया कि किसी न किसी बहाने से इस सरकार को गिराया जाय । इसी षड्यंत्र के तहत उन्होंने अनावश्यक रूप से मंडल आयोग का मुद्दा उठाया । मंडल आयोग का मुद्दा उठाने के पीछे उनका उद्देश्य यह था कि इस सरकार को गिराया जाय । इसी उद्देश्य से उन्होंने

[श्री राम अवधेश सिंह]

घोषणा कर दे इसमें कोई नई नीति का सवाल नहीं खड़ा होता । जयहिन्द ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jagesh Desai, you also want to say something?

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): Madam, I will not take much time

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No arguments. Only points.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: I want to put this on record. First of all, the Government should have come forward with a White Paper on the working of the public sector undertakings. After that, if they had come to this conclusion, I would have accepted it. But this is a departure from the accepted policy which has been followed in this country for many years now.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gopalsamy, Let him speak.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: This can be debated. Only the financial institutions and LIC can invest but this may open the pandora box. (*Interruptions*). We must be very carefull. He should not play with the policy that has been accepted by this country for so many year regarding public sector. So, the Government should again consider this aspect and I caution the Government on this aspect.

Secondly, because they have no resources, some of the resources of the public sector undertakings are being diverted. Had the V. P. Singh Government collected tax on excise duty, customs duty, corporation tax, this would not have happened. They have put the country in such a situation... (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now I will put the motion.

The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1991-92, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-byclause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 to 4 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: I move:

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE APPROPRIATION (NO. 2) BILL, 1991.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): Madam, I move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1990-91, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now we shall take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 and 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: I move:

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.